

October 13, 2005

Richard H. Karney, P.E.  
U.S. Department of Energy  
ENERGY STAR Program Manager

RE: Comments on Energy Star Rule Clothes Washer Rule Criteria

Dear Mr. Karney:

Water conservation is an essential part of any community long-range water supply strategy.

I am informed that at the DOE Stakeholders' meeting on August 31, 2004, there appeared to be agreement that a water factor (WF) criteria should be added to Energy Star. Since many clothes washers are already available that would meet a 7.5 WF and many more will be on the market by 2007, this WF level is being supported by many water utilities and other organizations for implementation in 2007.

As a knowledgeable private citizen, I would strongly urge the acceptance of this recommendation and set a WF of 7.5 for inclusion in Energy Star in 2007. This standard would greatly help many community utilities meet their long-term water needs.

It is only common sense that serious measures be taken to not waste the limited supply of usable water available to communities, while there is time to keep measures relatively painless. Just because it rains it still cost tax dollars to make clean water available.

In my work I have seen how industries are put under pressure to leave a community, taking their jobs with them, because of water supply problems. Communities have had to take funding away from schools and public safety (fire and police) to cover higher costs of water. Often it is politically impossible to prevent a water crisis on the local level without support from larger state and/or federal government actions. Acceptance of this recommendation and set a WF of 7.5 can quietly and painlessly help prevent future crisis in so many large and small communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. If you have any questions, please contact me at [John.Seymour@ncmail.net](mailto:John.Seymour@ncmail.net).

Sincerely,

John Seymour  
Environmental Engineer II  
NC DPPEA